New automobile policy

57. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a new automobile policy; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) This matter is under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of LPG Refills

58. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of LPG refills in Delhi and the consumers are supplied refills after one week of the booking made with the dealer;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of the short supply of LPG refills;

(c) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and inconvenience being experienced by the consumers for not getting LPG refills for one week or so; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to ensure supply of refills to the LPG consumers within the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) There was some backlog in supply of refills in Delhi/New Delhi recently. The main reasons were as follows:

(i) Increased winter demand.

(ii) Reduced bottling at Shakurbasti (Delhi) plants of Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation, following erratic functioning of filling machines and weighing systems.

(iii) Law and Order situation in some areas of Old Delhi.

(d) Extra supplies were arranged from Mathura, Koyali, Bombay and Allahabad. With rectificatory steps at the Shakurbasti bottling plants having been completed, the situation has improved.

Electrification of villages through non-conventional sources of energy

59. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for electrification of villages through non-conventional sources of energy;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether the State Electricity Boards have been advised in this respect; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued to them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The programme of initial electrification through provision of solar photovoltaic street lighting units was taken up as a demonstration programme by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources through the Rural Electrification Corporation, State Electricity Boards and State Renewable Energy Agencies. So far, over 200 villages have been provided with photovoltaic street lights and in some cases with photovoltaic systems for community facilities. Electrification of villages in remote and backward areas using non-conventional energy sources has been included in the Seventh Plan document also. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Rural Electrification